



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

September 24, 2003

TO: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *tm*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – NEW DAWN,
WALNUT AND CHINO FACILITIES**

We have completed a review of two group homes operated by New Dawn, Walnut (New Dawn-Walnut) and Chino (New Dawn-Chino). Each home is licensed with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

New Dawn-Walnut is a six-bed facility located in the Fifth Supervisorial District that provides care for boys ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, New Dawn-Walnut was providing services for four Los Angeles County DCFS children.

New Dawn-Chino is a six-bed facility located in San Bernardino County that provides care for boys ages 10-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, New Dawn-Chino was providing services for six DCFS children.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review was to verify that the two facilities are providing services outlined in their Program Statements. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues. The review included an evaluation of each home's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility

inspection, and interviews with two children placed in each of the respective homes at the time of the reviews. The interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by New Dawn-Walnut and New Dawn-Chino, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, both homes were providing the services outlined in their Program Statements. However, we noted a few areas where improvements can be made.

New Dawn-Walnut

New Dawn-Walnut needs to make repairs to the facility and provide each resident with a life book.

New Dawn-Chino

New Dawn-Chino needs to maintain age-appropriate recreational equipment for the residents; and improve its Needs and Services Plans in accordance with general licensing requirements.

Attached are details of the monitoring findings.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management has agreed to provide DCFS with a written corrective action plan within fifteen business days from the date of this report. We thank the Agency's management and staff for their cooperation during our reviews.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Patrick McMahon at (213) 974-0729.

JTM:PM:CC

Attachment

- c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
- Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
- Public Information Office
- Audit Committee
- David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
- Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer
- Fredda Davis, Executive Director, New Dawn Emancipation Group Home

**New Dawn Group Home
Walnut Site
20723 Walnut Valley Drive
Walnut, CA 91789
Phone: (909) 595-1177
License No.: 191593081
Rate Classification Level: 9**

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

New Dawn operates two group homes of which one is the Walnut site. Located on a quiet residential street, the facility was well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends in with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards noted.

The interior of the home was generally neat and clean. The décor gave a sense of a home-like atmosphere and the common rooms were nicely decorated and maintained. Resident bedrooms were spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However there were some areas in need of improvement.

The residents' bathroom had a missing window screen, the vanity mirror was broken on the left side, and the bathtub area had mold, mildew and needed caulking. Further, there was an inadequate supply of drinking glasses available for the residents in the home.

There was age-appropriate play equipment in the home including table games, a TV, VCR, a weight bench, and weights. There was a computer with a variety of programs, books, and resource material.

There was a sufficient supply of frozen foods, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit properly stored.

Recommendations

1. New Dawn-Walnut management:

- a. **Replace missing window screen in the residents' bathroom.**
- b. **Replace the broken vanity mirror in the residents' bathroom.**
- c. **Remove mold and mildew from the bathtub area.**
- d. **Caulk the bathtub area in the residents' bathroom.**
- e. **Maintain an adequate supply of drinking glasses for the residents.**

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents met New Dawn-Walnut's population criteria as outlined in their program statement and received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the program.

The Needs and Service Plans (NSPs) were realistic, measurable, and time specific. Both the children and placement workers were participants in the development and updating of the NSPs.

One resident's Quarterly Report was current, comprehensive, timely, complete, and focuses on the goals in the NSP. The other resident's Quarterly Report was not due.

Both residents were receiving individual and group therapy sessions.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Neither resident was enrolled in summer school. One resident had been in the home less than a month and his cumulative educational records had not yet been received by the agency. The other resident has report cards and/or progress notes on file. The residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of educational stimulation away from school on a daily basis and that the group home is supportive of their academic progress.

Development of daily living skills is a part of New Dawn-Walnut's program. The residents were involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals, hygiene care was discussed as needed, and employment preparation was encouraged.

Age-appropriate residents were involved or offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

New Dawn-Walnut had provided residents with sufficient opportunity to participate in both on-ground and off-ground recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the variety and quantity of activities provided by the agency and stated that the recreation schedules are followed and implemented.

New Dawn-Walnut utilizes local community organizations for recreation and program resources and the residents stated that they that they participate in the planning of some of the activities. The residents reported that they have ample free time, are able to participate in self-selected activities, and that the group home provides transportation to the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: There were five residents placed in the group home at the time of the review. A review of one case file was conducted for the resident on psychotropic medication.

Comments:

The resident being prescribed psychotropic medication has a current court authorization on file. Documentation confirms that the child was routinely seen by the psychiatrist for an evaluation of medication and progress in therapy.

Medication logs were properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents expressed satisfaction with the facility and the staff stating that the atmosphere is generally respectful. Residents participated in an initial orientation and the agency’s policies and procedures are posted in the facility. The residents reported that they felt safe in the group home and that there was no interference with daily living functions.

Both residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. The residents also reported that the staff supervises them appropriately and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with the staff. Both felt that there is at least one staff member they can trust and easily talk to.

The residents reported that they have assigned reasonable chores that they complete on a daily basis, are able to have visitors, make and receive personal telephone calls, and contact their social workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Both residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and felt that the home respects their cultural lifestyles by allowing residents to celebrate different holidays.

Both residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced by all of the staff and that they have fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

New Dawn-Walnut was providing appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. New Dawn-Walnut supplied its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents were given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents was of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

New Dawn-Walnut was providing its residents with a fair minimum weekly allowance which they can spend as they choose. In addition, residents are able to earn increased allowances.

New Dawn-Walnut was providing residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

Neither resident had a life book.

Recommendations

- 2. New Dawn-Walnut management provide each resident with the opportunity to maintain a life book.**

**New Dawn Group Home
Chino Site
4340 Wilson Street
Chino, CA 91710
Phone: (909) 594-2762
License No.: 360908565
Rate Classification Level: 9**

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

New Dawn operates two group homes of which one is the Chino site. Located on a quiet residential street, the facility was well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blended in with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards noted.

The interior of the home was generally neat and clean. The décor gave a sense of a home-like atmosphere and the common rooms were nicely decorated and maintained. Resident bedrooms were spacious, comfortable and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks.

There were some age-appropriate play equipment in the home including table games, a TV, and VCR. There was also a computer with a variety of programs, books, and resource material. However, there was no on-grounds age-appropriate recreational equipment (weights, weight bench, ping-pong table, basketball gear, etc.) mandated by general licensing requirements (Title 22).

There was a sufficient supply of frozen foods, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit that was properly stored.

Recommendations

- 1. New Dawn-Chino management maintain on-grounds age-appropriate recreational equipment for the residents.**

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Both residents met New Dawn-Chino’s population criteria as outlined in their program statement and received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the program.

One resident’s Needs and Service Plan (NSP) was realistic, measurable, and time specific. However, the other resident’s NSP had been duplicated for the past year and was not updated in accordance with general licensing requirements. Both the children and placement workers are given the opportunity to participate in the development and updating of the NSPs.

The Quarterly Reports were current, comprehensive, timely, complete, and focus on the goals in the NSPs.

Both residents were receiving individual and group therapy sessions.

Recommendations

2. **New Dawn-Chino management update each resident’s Needs and Services Plan in accordance with general licensing requirements.**

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents were enrolled in local schools and their records contained semester report cards and/or progress reports. Both residents required and had current Individualized Education Plans. The residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of educational stimulation away from school on a daily basis and that the agency is supportive of their academic progress.

Development of daily living skills is a part of the agency’s program. The residents were involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals, hygiene care was discussed as needed, and employment preparation was encouraged.

Age-appropriate residents were involved or offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

New Dawn-Chino provided its residents with sufficient opportunity to participate in off-ground recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the variety and quantity of activities provided by the agency and stated that the recreation schedules are followed and implemented.

New Dawn-Chino has utilized the local community organizations for recreation and program resources and the residents stated that they participate in the planning of some of the activities. The residents reported that they have ample free time, are able to participate in self-selected activities, and that the agency provides transportation to the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: There were six residents placed in the agency at the time of the review. A review of case files was conducted for two of the residents on psychotropic medications.

Comments:

The residents receiving prescribed psychotropic medication had current court authorizations. Documentation confirmed that the children were routinely seen by the psychiatrist for an evaluation of their medication and progress in therapy.

Medication logs were properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS**Method of assessment – Resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: Two****Comments:**

Both residents expressed satisfaction with the facility and the agency's staff stating that the atmosphere is generally respectful. Residents participated in an initial orientation and the agency's policies and procedures are posted in the facility. The residents reported that they feel safe in the home and that there is no interference with daily living functions.

Both residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. The residents also reported that the staff supervises them appropriately and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Both felt that there is at least one staff member they can trust and easily talk to.

The residents were assigned reasonable chores that they complete on a daily basis, were able to have visitors, make and receive personal telephone calls, and contact their social workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Both residents were also able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and felt that the agency respects their cultural lifestyles by allowing residents to celebrate different holidays.

Both residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced by all of the staff and that they have fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

New Dawn-Chino was providing appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. New Dawn-Chino was supplying its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents were given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents was of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

New Dawn-Chino was providing its residents with a fair minimum weekly allowance which they can spend as they choose. In addition, residents are able to earn increased allowances.

New Dawn-Chino was providing residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

Both residents had life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.